



# Colorado Crop Progress

USDA NASS Colorado Field Office  
P.O. Box 150969, Lakewood, CO 80215  
Phone 1-800-392-3202 · 1-800-643-6885  
e-mail: [nass-co@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-co@nass.usda.gov)

To access USDA-NASS reports <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

Released: April 17, 2012

Vol. 49 No. 6

**Agricultural Summary:** Last week, above average precipitation arrived along the Front Range and Eastern Plains of Colorado while the rest of the State had below average precipitation levels. Temperatures were above average for the majority of last week with some cooler temperatures at the end, slowing the accelerated progress of small grain crops. Windy and dry conditions prevailed in parts of the Eastern Plains and in the San Luis Valley. Overall, mountain snowpack is 40 percent of average raising concerns about the availability of irrigation water this growing season. Farmers were allowed 5.6 days in the field for spring operations.

## TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	8	33	58	1
Last Week	8	37	55	0
Last Year	35	35	27	3

## SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	16	38	46	0
Last Week	10	38	52	0
Last Year	35	38	24	3

**Small Grains:** Winter wheat progress increased to 33 percent jointed compared with the 5-year average of 18 percent. The winter wheat reported being pastured remained at 1 percent last week. The crop was rated in mostly fair to good condition. Spring barley was 50 percent seeded with 32 percent emerged by the end of the week compared with the 5-year average of 35 percent and 11 percent, respectively. Spring wheat was reported 45 percent seeded, 20 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average, with 12 percent emerged at week's end.

**Row Crops:** Corn plantings increased to 5 percent planted compared with last year and the 5-year average of 3 percent. Onion growers reported 64 percent of the acreage planted, ahead of schedule compared with 55 percent on average. The planting of summer potatoes

increased to 35 percent last week, 24 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Sugarbeet planting last week reached 28 percent planted, ahead of the 5-year average of 18 percent.

## SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending April 15, 2012

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat					
This Week	5	13	40	38	4
Last Year	20	31	34	15	0

**Pasture and Range:** Pasture and range feed conditions improved slightly last week with the limited moisture, but remains in mostly fair to poor condition across the State. Twenty percent was rated good compared with 14 percent the previous week.

## PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending April 15, 2012

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2012	13	27	40	20	0
Prev. Year - 2011	14	23	34	26	3
5-Year Avg.	10	19	38	31	2

**Livestock:** Eighty percent of cows have calved since January 1<sup>st</sup> while 74 percent of the ewes have lambled during the same time frame. Livestock condition remains in mostly good condition. Death losses for cattle and sheep were average. Stored feed supplies were rated average to short for this time of year.

## Spring 2012 Calving and Lambing

	2012	5-Yr Avg.
Cows Calved since Jan 1	80	77
Ewes Lambled since Jan 1	74	72

## COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending April 15, 2012

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
<b>Winter Wheat</b>				
Pastured	1	1	5	5
Jointed	33	18	16	18
<b>Spring Barley</b>				
Seeded	50	36	37	35
Emerged	32	30	13	11
<b>Spring Wheat</b>				
Seeded	45	32	25	25
Emerged	12	10	5	7
<b>Corn</b>				
Planted	5	1	3	3
<b>Dry Onions</b>				
Planted	64	45	56	55
<b>Sugarbeets</b>				
Planted	28	18	7	18
<b>Summer Potatoes</b>				
Planted	35	21	11	11

## COLORADO CONDITION RATINGS 1/

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>Livestock</b>	4	5	20	67	4

1/ Crop condition ratings pertain to emerged plants early in the growing season through plants remaining to be harvested late in the season.